

What is claimed is:

1. A method of computing, comprising
 - receiving portions of a packetized, multi-program transport stream including program specific information about data in the packetized, multi-program transport stream;
 - extracting, from the program specific information, at least one program identifier associated with data in the packetized, multi-program transport stream; and
 - providing the extracted program identifier to an external application.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving portions of a packetized, multi-program transport stream including program specific information about data in the packetized, multi-program transport stream comprises monitoring a demultiplexer.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein extracting, from the program specific information, at least one program identifier associated with data in the packetized, multi-program transport stream comprises retrieving from the packetized, multi-program transport stream, data that identifies the multiple programs in the transport stream.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the packetized, multi-program transport stream is an MPEG-2 transport stream and the extracted information comprises information from a program association table.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the packetized, multi-program transport stream is an MPEG-2 transport stream and the extracted information comprises information from a program map table.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein providing the extracted program identifier to an external application comprises presenting the program identifier in an application program interface accessible by the external application.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the external application uses the program identifier to configure the output stream of a demultiplexer.

8. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 1.

9. A method of processing a packetized, multi-program transport stream, comprising:

- extracting program specific information from the packetized, multi-program transport stream;
- parsing the program specific information to obtain at least one program identifier associated with a program in the packetized, multi-program transport stream; and
- configuring an output of a demultiplexer based on the at least one program identifier.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein extracting program specific information from the packetized, multi-program transport stream invoking an application programming interface to retrieve program specific information from a demultiplexer.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the packetized, multi-program transport stream is an MPEG-2 transport stream and the extracted information comprises information from a program association table.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the packetized, multi-program transport stream is an MPEG-2 transport stream and the extracted information comprises information from a program map table.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein parsing the program specific information to obtain at least one program identifier associated with a program in the packetized, multi-program transport stream comprises using the program association table to populate a program map table.

14. The method of claim 9, wherein configuring an output of a demultiplexer based on the at least one program identifier comprises mapping the at least one program identifier to an output pin of the demultiplexer.

15. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method recited in claim 9.

16. A method of computing, comprising:

obtaining a plurality of program identifiers from a received MPEG-2 transport stream; and

presenting the plurality of program identifiers in a user interface;

receiving, from the user interface, a signal indicating a program identifier selected from the plurality of program identifiers in the MPEG-2 transport stream; and

configuring a MPEG-2 demultiplexer based on the selected program identifier.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein obtaining a plurality of program identifiers from a received MPEG-2 transport stream comprises:

retrieving information from a program association table from the MPEG-2 transport stream; and

using information from the program association table to retrieve information from at least one program map table in the transport stream.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein configuring an MPEG-2 demultiplexer based on the selected program identifier comprises mapping an audio stream from the selected program to an audio output pin of the multiplexer.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein configuring an MPEG-2 demultiplexer based on the selected program identifier comprises mapping a video stream from the selected program to a video output pin of the multiplexer.

20. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 15.

21. An apparatus comprising:
 - means for receiving portions of a packetized, multi-program transport stream including program specific information about data in the packetized, multi-program transport stream;
 - means for extracting, from the program specific information, at least one program identifier associated with data in the packetized, multi-program transport stream; and
 - means for providing the extracted program identifier to an external application.
22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the means for receiving portions of a packetized, multi-program transport stream including program specific information about data in the packetized, multi-program transport stream comprises a demultiplexer filter implemented as a software object in a filter graph.
23. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the means for extracting, from the program specific information, at least one program identifier associated with data in the packetized, multi-program transport stream comprises a parser filter implemented as a software object in a filter graph.

24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the parser filter supports an API for retrieving program specific information from the transport stream.

25. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the transport stream is an MPEG-2 transport stream and the parser filter comprises logic instructions for retrieving a PAT from the transport stream and using information in the PAT to retrieve one or more PMTs from the transport stream.

26. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the external application comprises a user interface for displaying portions of the extracted program information.

27. The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising means for configuring a demultiplexer based on the program specific information.

28. A user interface, comprising:

- a first screen area to display information identifying programs in a transport stream;
- a first interface to enable selection of a program in the transport stream; and
- a second screen area to display, in response to the selection of a program in the transport stream, information identifying the streams in the selected program and packet identifiers associated with the streams.

29. The user interface of claim 28, further comprising a third interface to enable viewing of the selected program.

30. A computer system, comprising:

- a display;
- a user-input device;
- a processor capable of executing logic instructions; and
- a computer readable medium comprising logic instructions for:
 - receiving portions of a packetized, multi-program transport stream including program specific information about data in the packetized, multi-program transport stream;
 - extracting, from the program specific information, at least one program identifier associated with data in the packetized, multi-program transport stream; and
 - providing the extracted program identifier to an external application.

31. A computer system, comprising:
 - a display;
 - a user-input device;
 - a processor capable of executing logic instructions; and
 - a computer readable medium comprising logic instructions for:
 - extracting program specific information from the packetized, multi-program transport stream;
 - parsing the program specific information to obtain at least one program identifier associated with a program in the packetized, multi-program transport stream; and
 - configuring an output of a demultiplexer based on the at least one program identifier.

32. A computer system, comprising:
 - a display;
 - a user-input device;
 - a processor capable of executing logic instructions; and
 - a computer readable medium comprising logic instructions for:
 - obtaining a plurality of program identifiers from a received MPEG-2 transport stream; and
 - presenting the plurality of program identifiers in a user interface;
 - receiving, from the user interface, a signal indicating a program identifier selected from the plurality of program identifiers in the MPEG-2 transport stream; and
 - configuring a MPEG-2 demultiplexer based on the selected program identifier.

